

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9-25, 27-33, 37-55, 57, 58, 60-64, 68-84, and 86-103 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 2, 13, 16, 23-25, 27-30, 41, 42, 44, 53-55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 72, 75, 82-84, and 86-88 having been amended to put them in better form for examination. Claims 6-8, 26, 34-36, 56, 65-67 and 85 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 89-103 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 29, 60, 88, and 101-103 are in independent form.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An information providing method of providing information to a user, said method comprising:

[an input step of inputting a code;]

an extraction step of searching a first database for a first information corresponding to [the] an inputted code and extracting the first information; a first information layout determination step of determining a layout for printing the first information on a paper sheet in accordance with the first information extracted in said extraction step;

an attachment step of[], when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for a second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information] attaching a second information that is extracted from a second database and is printed in a margin on the paper sheet to the first information; and

an output step of outputting [the first information or] the first information with the second information attached thereto in said attached step in accordance with the layout.

2. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that [the input step inputs] the code [through] is inputted by a terminal apparatus connected to a network.

Claims 6-8 have been canceled.

13. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that the management server includes a second table which stores a relationship between a respective code of each of a plurality of second information and a respective information provider server storing the second information, and

[when the predetermined condition is satisfied,] said attachment step specifies an information provider server storing the second information by looking up the second table, searches the second database of the information provider server for the second information, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

16. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [15] 10, [characterized in that] further comprising a first registration step of registering the first information together with a code for identifying the registered first information in the first database, wherein a server identifier for discriminating an information provider server from remaining ones of the plurality of information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of the plurality of information provider servers, and

[said first registration step stores the registered first information in the information provider server together with a] the code [that] for identifying the first information registered in said first registration step includes the server identifier of the information provider server and an

information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from other information in the information provider server.

23. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of the terminal apparatus in advance,

[said input step inputs] the code is inputted together with the terminal specification information [together with the code], and
said attachment step [determines] extracts, using the terminal specification information, [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information from the second database.

24. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a third registration step of registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information extracted from the second database.

25. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 24, characterized in that [said input step inserts an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputs] the inputted code [containing the] includes a user identifier for identifying the user, and said attachment step specifies a corresponding user profile based on [a received]

the user identifier of the inputted code, searches for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

Claim 26 has been canceled.

27. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [26] 92, further comprising a deletion step of, when printing of the [outputted] mail outputted in said output step has ended [in said printing step], deleting the outputted mail [from the mail server].

28. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [26] 92, [further comprising an input step of inputting the] wherein the inputted code contains a user identifier.

29. (Twice Amended) An information providing system for providing information to a user, said system comprising:

[an input unit for inputting a code;]

an extraction circuit for searching a first database for a first information corresponding to [the] an inputted code and extracting the first information;
a first information layout determination circuit for determining a layout for printing the first information on a paper sheet in accordance with the first information extracted by said extraction circuit,

an attachment circuit for[, when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for a second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information] attaching a second information that is extracted from a second database and is printed in a margin on the paper sheet to the first information; and

an output unit for outputting [the first information or] the first information with the second information attached thereto by said attachment circuit in accordance with the layout.

30. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a terminal apparatus connected to a network, wherein [said input unit inputs the code from] the code is inputted by the terminal apparatus through the network.

Claims 34-36 have been canceled.

41. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 38, characterized in that the management server includes a second table which stores a relationship between a respective code of each of a plurality of second information and an information provider server storing the second information, and

said attachment circuit specifies[, when the predetermined condition is satisfied,] an information provider server storing the second information by looking up the second table, searches the second database of the information provider server for the second information,

extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

42. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim [38] 29, further comprising a first registration circuit for registering the first information in the first database.

44. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim [43] 38, [characterized in that] further comprising a first registration circuit for registering the first information together with a code for identifying the registered first information in the first database, wherein a server identifier for discriminating an information provider server from remaining ones of the plurality of information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of the plurality of information provider servers, and

[the memory stores the registered first information in the information provider server together with a code that] the code for identifying the first information registered by said first registration circuit includes the server identifier of the information provider server and an information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from other information in the information provider server.

53. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 30, characterized in that said terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of the terminal apparatus in advance,

[said input unit inputs] the code is inputted together with the terminal specification information [together with the code], and
said attachment circuit [determines] extracts, using the terminal specification information, [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information from the second database.

54. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a third registration circuit for registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information extracted from the second database.

55. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 54, characterized in that [said input unit inserts an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputs] the inputted code [containing the] includes a user identifier for identifying the user, and said attachment circuit specifies a corresponding user profile based on [a received] the user identifier of the inputted code, searches for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

Claim 56 has been canceled.

57. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim [56] 96, further comprising a deletion circuit for, when printing of the [outputted] mail outputted by said output unit by said printer has ended, deleting the outputted mail [from the mail server].

58. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 57, [further comprising an input unit for inputting the] wherein the inputted code includes a user identifier.

60. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing an information providing method for providing information to a user, the program comprising:

[program code for an input step of inputting a code;]

program code for an extraction step of searching a first database for a first information corresponding to [the] an inputted code and extracting the first information; program code for a first information layout determination step of determining a layout for printing the first information on a paper sheet in accordance with the first information extracted in the extraction step;

program code for an attachment step of, when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for a second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information] attaching a second information that is extracted from a second database and is printed in a margin on the paper sheet to the first information; and

program code for an output step of outputting [the first information or] the first information with the second information attached thereto in the attachment step in accordance with the layout.

61. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 60, characterized in that [the input step inputs] the code [through] is inputted by a terminal apparatus connected to a network.

Claims 65-67 have been canceled.

72. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 69, characterized in that the management server includes a second table which stores a relationship between a respective code of each of a plurality of second information and a respective information provider server storing the second information, and [when the predetermined condition is satisfied,] the attachment step specifies the information provider server storing the second information by looking up the second table, searches the second database of the information provider server for the second information, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

75. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim [74] 69, [characterized in

that]

wherein the program further comprises a first registration step of registering the first information together with a code for identifying the registered first information in the first database,

wherein a server identifier for discriminating a information provider server from remaining ones of the plurality of information provider servers is assigned in advance to each of the plurality of information provider servers, and

[the storage step stores the registered first information in the information provider server together with a] wherein the code [that] for identifying the first information registered in the first registration step includes the server identifier of the information provider server and an information identifier for discriminating the registered first information from other information in the information provider server.

82. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 61, characterized in that the terminal apparatus stores terminal specification information associated with specifications of the terminal apparatus in advance,

[the input step inputs] the code is inputted together with the terminal specification information [together with the code], and

the attachment step [determines] extracts, using the terminal specification information, [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information from the second database.

83. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 60, wherein the program further comprises a third registration step of registering in advance, in units of users, user profile information used to determine [whether the predetermined condition is satisfied] the second information extracted from the second database.

84. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 83, characterized in that [the input step inserts an identifier for identifying the user into the code and inputs] the inputted code [containing the] includes a user identifier for identifying the user, and the attachment step specifies a corresponding user profile based on [a received] the user identifier of the inputted code, searches for the second information corresponding to the user profile, extracts the second information, and attaches the extracted second information to the first information.

Claim 85 has been canceled.

86. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim [85] 100, wherein the program further comprises a deletion step of, when printing of the [outputted] mail outputted in the output step has ended [in the printing step], deleting the outputted mail [from the mail server].

87. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim [85] 100, wherein [the

program further comprises an input step of inputting the] the inputted code includes a user identifier.

88. (Amended) A terminal apparatus connected to a server via a network,

said server comprising:

an extraction circuit for searching a first database for a first information corresponding to an inputted code and extracting the first information;

a first information layout determination circuit for determining a layout for printing the first information on a paper sheet in accordance with the first information extracted by said extraction circuit;

an attachment circuit for[, when a predetermined condition is satisfied, searching a second database for a second information, extracting the second information, and attaching the extracted second information to the first information] attaching a second information that is extracted from a second database and is printed in a margin on the paper sheet to the first information; and

an output unit for outputting [the first information or] the first information with the second information attached thereto by said attachment circuit in accordance with the layout, and

said terminal apparatus comprising:

an image input unit for inputting an original image;

a transmission circuit for sending the inputted original image to the server

for registering the inputted original image as the first information in the first database;
an input unit for inputting the code via the network; and
a printer for receiving the information outputted by said output unit via the
network, and printing the received information.

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